



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW, EMT-P
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
June 3, 1998
MINUTES

Members Present: J. Fields (Chair), J. McKenny (Chair-Elect), R. Chagrasulis (ex-officio), L. Bouchard, R. Doughty, W. Dunwoody, J. Defillip, P. DiPietrantonio, G. Murray, S. Hayes, C. Pillsbury

Staff: J. Bradshaw, J. Lebrun, D. Carroll, D. White, W. Zito, D. Bahr, B. Montejo, R. Bumps, D. Corning

Guests: Commissioner Michael Kelly

1. Minutes

MOTION: *To approve the minutes of the April 1, 1998, Board meeting as distributed (DiPietrantonio; second by Murray). Carried.*

2. Introductions

Commissioner Kelly attended a portion of the meeting to introduce himself and meet members of the Board. The Commissioner expressed his interest in the operation of the Board and expressed his intention to attend a full Board meeting at a future date.

3. Old Business

A. *EMS/TC Task Force*

J. Bradshaw will write to Dick Willis in an attempt to determine what, if any, communication has taken place since he and J. Fields met with Dr. Willis last fall.

B. *Reengineering Service License - Update*

D. White reported that work is continuing. Process at this point includes finalizing a draft service license application, defining drug box arrangements and criteria for medical control signature. In order to implement some of the changes discussed, both Rules and Law changes will be necessary. It is also necessary to publish QA/QI guidelines.

C. *Strategic Planning Draft*

J. Bradshaw reported that the Operations Team began drafting the Strategies for accomplishing the Objectives that were drafted by the Board. At this point, the Operations Team wanted to get input from the Board to assure that this was progressing in a direction consistent with the Board's intentions. There was a discussion about the prioritization of the Goals and conflicting interests. Jay explained that the entire document is a 'work in progress' and that as it continues to develop, the details may change in wording and in order.

Consensus of the Board was that the draft is proceeding in an acceptable manner and that the Operations Team should continue to refine the strategies and develop action items. Due to the complexity of the project, the Board expressed a need to continuously revisit the document as work progresses.

D. Legislative Update

J. Bradshaw reported that LD 607 was passed and enacted which will enable non-profit EMS and fire departments to be exempt from state sales tax effective July 1, 1998. Services eligible for this exemption will need to contact the Bureau of Revenue for details and application forms.

The SIDS Bill was partially funded. The SIDS Study Group had recommended \$50,000 to develop the program and conduct the training; however the Legislature only funded \$25,000. Additional funding is being sought from Maine and national SIDS organizations. MEMS will be the lead agency in the development of the program which will train EMS and Law Enforcement instructors in conducting courses dealing with SIDS, CISM, and Interpersonal Communication Skills. Goal is to conduct the initial training sessions this fall.

E. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

F. Other

None at this time

4. New Business

A. Operations Team/Committee Action Items

J. Bradshaw updated the Board about the Youth Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training that will begin this summer. Classes will be held in each region. Candidates will be screened and selected by the regional offices.

Jay also reported that work continues on additional equipment grants from the Bureau of Highway Safety. Approximately \$20,000 of matching funds will be available.

B. EMS Week

J. Bradshaw reported that the EMS Awards were held on May 21 in the Hall of Flags. Again this year, there were many compliments by the award recipients and guests who attended. Dr. David Stuchiner was unable to attend due to a long standing commitment; however, Jay has arranged for Dr. Stuchiner to have a photo opportunity with the Governor and Commissioner Kelly at a future date.

Dr. Chagrasulis thanked the Nominations Committee for their work in modifying the awards process and asked about ideas to solicit more nominations. Suggestions included; public notice and solicitation using resources available through the Governor's Office and the Maine Municipal Association, and direct mailing to services. Consensus was to continue to use the same overall format of review and recommendation to the Board.

C. New Board Vacancies

J. Bradshaw reminded Board members that the legislation that will expand the Board becomes effective June 30, 1998. Anyone interested in the new positions (hospitals, fire services, and public) should send a letter of interest and a resume' to Cheryl Ring in the Governor's Office.

D. Nominations Committee Report

W. Dunwoody reported that Committee members recommend John Fields, to serve another term as Chair and Jim McKenney to serve as Chair-elect.

MOTION: To approve the Nominations Committee's recommendations and to elect John Fields as Chair and Jim McKenney as Chair-elect for a two year term. (Bouchard; second by DiPietrantonio). Unanimous.

E. John Tinker - Board Action

D. White reported that, on March 11, 1998, the Investigations Committee voted to revoke the EMS license of John Tinker based upon Mr. Tinker's 1997 conviction of a Class C crime (burglary). In order to pursue revocation of Mr. Tinker's license in Administrative Court, it is the position of the Attorney General's office that the full EMS Board must vote to seek revocation and so state the rationale for any revocation decision. Discussion ensued as to Mr. Tinker's convictions and the Investigation Committee's decision to seek revocation.

MOTION: That John Tinker's convictions for Burglary (Class C) and, for Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer (Class D), on April 11, 1997, constitute grounds for license revocation as provided for by § 12(A)(4) of the Maine EMS Rules (dated September 1, 1996), and that the Office of the Attorney General be requested to initiate revocation proceedings in the Administrative Court against Mr. Tinker's EMS license. (Murray; second by Doughty). Unanimous.

F. SMEMS EMT-I Proposal

D. Carroll reviewed the history of the proposed changes to the current EMT-Intermediate level. The changes include training and authorizing EMT-Intermediates to administer certain medications when approved by Medical Control. Donnie emphasized that their interest was not to create a new license level, but to modify the training and licensing for all EMT-Intermediates. SMEMS estimates that the update program will take approximately 24 hours of classroom time. Their goal is to have the details worked out and have an implementation date of July 1, 1999.

J. Fields recommended that all providers be notified about this proposal as soon as appropriate given the details that need to be addressed.

J. Bradshaw added that the Education and Operations Committees have developed a template that can be used for such modifications to help assure that all necessary issues have been addressed *before* the implementation begins.

G. SMEMS QA/QI Committee Approval

D. White reported that he has received correspondence from Southern Maine EMS requesting approval of their Quality Assurance Committee in accordance with 32 MRSA § 92-A. Staff recommends approval.

MOTION: To approve the Quality Assurance Committee of Southern Maine EMS Council, Inc., in accordance with 32 MRSA § 92-A (Doughty; second by Dunwoody). Unanimous.

5. Staff Report

A. *Activities - Update*

J. Bradshaw reported that inspections are continuing to uncover problems with ambulance door latches. Some have been severe enough to warrant temporarily taking ambulances off the road until needed repairs could be made. Jay emphasized the decision to take an ambulance off the road is not one that is taken lightly; however, MEMS believes it is necessary and appropriate if the deficiency is such that the health and safety of the patient and/or provider is at risk. Mailings have been made to all EMS Service Chiefs advising them of this common problem and include inspection and repair guidelines.

Jay also reported that Drexell and Bill will be working on an Inspection Manual that will be distributed to all services to standardized the criteria and language that is used by MEMS and in an attempt to help them understand the details of the state inspection process.

In conjunction with the Maine Hospital Association and the Communications Offices at MMC, CMMC, EMMC, Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital and Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, a Trauma System announcement will be held on June 4, 1998. There will be press conferences held in Naples and in Ellsworth the same day. Jay will be representing MEMS, Dr. Stuchiner will be representing the Trauma Advisory Committee, and numerous other TAC members and EMS providers are expected to participate in the announcement.

Jay demonstrated the web pages that he drafted for MEMS. The goal of the pages is to be easy to understand and informative. The Board expressed its approval for the layout and complimented Jay for his efforts. Although there are still some technical issues to address with regard to the State's computer system, Jay anticipated that the pages would be up and running before July 1, 1998.

B. *MDPB Update*

Dr. Chagrasulis reported that work is continuing on the protocol revisions. The goal is to complete the first draft in June, to have the MEMS staff compile the changes into a single document for review in September with final approval and publication this fall.

C. *Other - LifeFlight of Maine*

Due to a potential conflict of interest, John Fields (who is employed as Vice President of Nursing for Central Maine Medical Center and who has been actively working on the LifeFlight application) asked Jim McKenney to chair this portion of the meeting.

D. White and J. Fields provided an update on the status of LifeFlight of Maine's application to establish a statewide air ambulance service. MEMS has received an application package which Drexell will be reviewing before making a decision on whether or not the application package can be deemed complete for purposes of the EMS Rules. John explained the process that is being taken to select a Part 135 vendor to provide the helicopters, pilots, and maintenance. John also described the nurse/paramedic teams that would staff the helicopters and how these providers would interact with both hospital and EMS personnel.

Drexell added that an issue has arisen with regard to confusion about the role of the "flight nurse" under the current EMS Law. The Office of Attorney General has been asked to assist with a formal opinion.

7. Other - Meeting Schedule

There be no meeting in July; however, due to the pending application of LifeFlight of Maine, and the Rules requirement that the Board act upon license applications within 70 days of an application being deemed 'complete,' the next meeting will be on August 5, 1998, @ 9:00 am in the EMS Conference Room.

Jay reported that due to a long-standing travel commitment, he will be unable to attend the August meeting.

J. Fields suggested that in September, the Board return to regular monthly meetings. Agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

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